

Best Practice – 1

**Advanced Cancer Care and research
Centre – Stepping up Access and
Transforming Treatment for Cancer
patients**

TITLE:**Advanced Cancer Care and research Centre – Stepping Up Access and Transforming Treatment for Cancer patients****Objectives:**

KLES' Advanced Cancer Centre was established with these objectives –

- To provide Comprehensive Cancer Care through an end-to-end multidisciplinary approach that encompasses prevention, diagnosis, treatment, palliative care, and rehabilitation for cancer patients.
- To improve Patient Outcomes to enhance survival rates and quality of life through the use of the latest technologies and evidence-based treatments.
- To deliver Access to Expert Care by ensuring that patients receive care from a skilled team of Surgical Oncologists, Medical Oncologists, Radiation Oncologists, Onco-pathologists, Radiologists, nurses, and other specialists.
- To promote Research and Innovation by developing and participating in cancer research, including clinical trials, to improve treatment protocols and develop new therapies.

Context

As per the ICMR 2022 data, one in nine persons is likely to develop cancer in their lifetime, with an annual incidence of 15 lakh new cancer cases, with high mortality rates. This reiterates the need for advanced cancer care centers and underscores their importance. KLES' Dr Prabhakar Kore Hospital and MRC is a quaternary care hospital catering to patients from North Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa. Amongst these, North Karnataka especially had limited access to specialized cancer care. With the vision to bridge this gap, a dedicated state-of-the-art cancer care facility that can provide life-saving services and improve the overall quality of cancer care for patients was envisioned and established in 2024.

Context – Challenges

The traditional health care setting is not completely equipped to handle the specialized diagnostic, treatment and palliative care needs of cancer patients.

Hence, dedicated facilities have to be created for this purpose. Establishing an advanced cancer care centre that incorporates latest technology requires significant investment in both infrastructure, manpower and equipment. Any financial constraint tends to limit the ability to acquire cutting-edge technology. Effective integration of multi-disciplinary team is difficult as it requires seamless communication, co-

ordination and collaboration among specialists.

Practice

- A 250 bedded advanced Cancer care center has been established in the premises of KLES' PKH MRC, allowing it to be more accessible and well connected to the already existing health services.
- The infrastructure houses –
 - Latest diagnostic equipment (CT scan, MRI, digital Mammogram)
 - Advanced treatment in radiation therapy - dedicated 4D CT Simulator, 2 advanced Linear Accelerators, advanced dosimetric equipment and image guided brachytherapy system.
 - 5 modular OTs with a dedicated 4-arm 3rd generation robotic surgery platform for complex and advanced onco-surgeries-.
 - Specialized chemotherapy care for both adult and pediatric cancers, including bone marrow transplant facility.
 - Routine cancer screening procedures and palliative care facilities.
- A well-trained team of oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, nurses, technicians and support staff ensures holistic patient care and their active participation in tumour board discussions.
- With the availability of cutting-edge technology the post graduates of super speciality courses (DM Medical Oncology & MCh Surgical Oncology) receive better training with more hands on experience.
- Active collaboration established with research institutions (ICMR) and pharmaceutical companies promotes cutting edge research and clinical trials.
- Regular awareness programs are conducted for both the public and healthcare professionals to encourage early detection and prevention.

Evidence of Success

- The establishment of advanced cancer care centre at Belagavi has been a boon to the patients of this part of Karnataka by significantly reducing the burden of travel to different centres for cancer diagnosis /treatment.
- Since the inception of advanced Radiation Oncology facilities in 2023, the number of patients treated annually has increased. Newer and advanced

techniques of radiation which were not available earlier in this region have been performed in over 400 patients. About 20% of them were treated with more unique and specialized techniques (HYPERARC-SRS, SBRT, DIBH), who otherwise would have been referred to metro cities.

- Preliminary data also suggests better outcomes and good quality of life in patients treated with advanced techniques.
- About 20 patients have been successfully treated with Robotic surgeries resulting in minimal hospital stay, early recovery and good quality of life.
- Annually more than 5,000 chemotherapies have been administered.
- Patient surveys and feedbacks have indicated good treatment satisfaction rates.

Problems Encountered

- This large scale project required good communication and co- ordination with various stake holders, for successful and timely completion.
- Regulatory challenges were encountered while obtaining necessary licenses, approvals and compliance with health care standards which was time consuming and complex.
- Recruiting and retaining highly skilled health care professionals was a challenge in this region with limited talent pools.
- The cost of advanced cancer care was prohibitive for certain populations. Ensuring access for underserved groups was a key challenge.

Resources Required

- Significant capital investment for the construction of the centre, purchase of equipment, and recruitment of staff.
- Cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment technologies, such as high- end imaging equipment's, radiation therapy machines, and robotic surgical tools.
- Ongoing education and training for staff to keep up with new research, treatments, and technological advancements in oncology.
- Resources for public education campaigns, as well as financial and logistical support for patients who may struggle with the costs of treatment



Best Practice – 2

Trailblazer institution that has Strategic Partnership to establish center for excellence in South India with The Network Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) to create an inter professional, multicultural, and global hub on social accountability for those who have a passion for global equitable health.

1. Title of the Practice

Trailblazer institution that has Strategic Partnership to establish center for excellence in South India with The Network Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) to create an interprofessional, multicultural, and global hub on social accountability for those who Have a passion for global equitable health.

2. Objectives of the Practice

The TUFH community unites global health leaders, taking their passion and commitment for global equitable health!

The objectives of this practice will be to establish Centre for South India in line with the objectives of TUFH to

1. Pledge to the community to bring together diversity of thought, experience, and technical/financial resources, so that, the members can challenge the status quo if any, go beyond the boundaries, learn from others involved in same.
2. Bring about healthy vibrant initiatives, discuss, share best practices with everyone on the platform.
3. Join hands in bringing about changes at local, regional, and global level.
4. Meet on regular basis with TUFH leadership, participate in events and provide feedback.

3. The Context

Towards Unity for Health (TUFH) is a global, intersectoral, and a intergenerational Network. It aims to foster justifiable community-oriented health services, education, and research with the goal of improving health at local, regional and global level.

The organization convenes innovative health care organizations, universities, community institutions from all over the world.

KLE academy of Higher Education and research is proud to have a strategic partnership with TUFH network. The process will allow us to be networking with Global Thought Leaders through TUFH's community platform and be recognized as Socially Accountable Health institution.

4. The Practice

The uniqueness of **TUFH Centres of Excellence (CE)** lies in **holistic, forward-thinking approach** to education. In the context of **Indian higher education**, the centres holds the potential to **reshape the future of universities**—creating a dynamic ecosystem that aligns with national needs while positioning Indian institutions at the forefront of global education and research.

KAHER is the TUFH South India National CE and a part of TUFH National CE Program 2025. KAHER will support research, provide input towards the development of guidance on TUFH technical areas of expertise and support regional and/or national capacity building, provide technical advice, and disseminate information within the region.

As a part of TUFH programme 2025, KAHER and TUFH will work together in the fields of

1. **Leadership Skills Enhancement**
2. Enhancing advocacy and policy leadership for partnership and collaboration with government and other authorities
3. Adoption and implementation of clinical guidelines and training programs to more effectively serve specific populations like Indigenous peoples, migrants and refugees and asylum seekers, rural population, women, elderly, and care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, and mental health issues.

5. Evidence of Success

As part of TUFH National CE Programme 2025 planned.

Improved Health Education; Effectively implemented educational programs that align with TUFH values.

Research Contribution; research that influences global health outcomes.

Collaborations and partnerships: 184 academic and research MOU's.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Challenges to Implementing TUFH in India could be:

- **Resistance to Change:** Existing traditional academic structures and resistance to technological integration. This will require deliberations to convince all the stakeholders
- **Infrastructure Gaps:** While digital learning has expanded, rural and underserved regions still face challenges like poor internet connectivity and lack of basic digital infrastructure
- **Faculty Development:** There's a need for a substantial investment in faculty development programs to train educators in new teaching methodologies and technological tools.
- **Need for enhanced Research attitude and supporting infrastructure**
- **Funding to support the activities of TUFH CE in health care, research and health professional education**

- **Establishment of collaborative partnership with Government and non-Government agencies**

7. Notes (Optional)

KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research (KAHER) envisions to become a TUFH Center of Excellence in India by adopting a comprehensive approach to health education and community involvement. The institution seeks to blend medical training with a strong focus on social accountability, ensuring that its graduates emerge not only as skilled professionals but also as compassionate leaders dedicated to meeting the diverse health needs of various populations. To realize this vision, KAHER is committed to enhancing interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering innovative research, and implementing evidence-based practices that tackle both local and global health challenges. The academy plans to forge strong partnerships with community organizations, healthcare providers, and policymakers, establishing a dynamic environment that shall promote sustainable health initiatives.

KAHER's dedication to inclusivity and equity is embedded in its curriculum, which prioritizes cultural competency and empathy in healthcare. By integrating community-oriented learning experiences, the institution equips students to address health disparities and enhance outcomes in under-served regions. KAHER aims to serve as a hub for knowledge exchange, offering training programs and workshops designed to empower health professionals across India, including faculty and student exchange initiatives. By emphasizing continuous improvement and adapting to the evolving healthcare landscape, KLE Academy of Higher Education and Research aspires to set a standard for excellence in medical education, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more equitable society.

AGREEMENT

Collaborating Center of Excellence

The India Collaborating Center of Excellence will focus on TUFH's status as a "non-state actor in official relations with WHO" and TUFH's moral compact to mend the fabric of our communities upon which health depends. TUFH is committed to drive communal interests by supporting local change agents toward the adoption and implementation of global policy recommendations.

This Agreement by and between The Network: Towards Unity for Health ("TUFH"), a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the State of Delaware in the United States of America and KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research, Belagavi, India. (KAHER and TUFH are each referred to as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties"):

RECITALS

WHEREAS, by its terms, the Agreement shall be from **October 1, 2024** through **December 31, 2025**.

WHEREAS, TUFH licenses KAHER (KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research, Belagavi) as an independent chapter of TUFH in Southern India and be a licensed to use and replicate TUFH's technical services and products on a regional level including the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and the Union Territories of Puducherry and Lakshadweep. These include, but are not limited to, The Social Accountability Institutional and Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care Institutional Self-Assessment, TUFH Academies, and TUFH Communities of Practice.

WHEREAS, KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research will pay an initial annual license fee of \$5,000 (discounted from the \$10,000 Middle Income Country License Fee) and sign up a minimum of 5 Institutions who are not currently TUFH Institutional members to become Members within six months of agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, intending to be legally bound hereby, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Mutually work toward delivering the following:

- Drive Health Profession Education Institutions and Health Delivery Systems to become Socially Accountable defined as being response to people and society's needs in the training and preparation of the healthcare workforce.
- Drive Health Profession Education Institutions and Health Delivery Systems to meet Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care standards.
- Drive Health Profession Education and Health Delivery System Institutions to adopt and work toward implementation of one or more competency standards for health workers serving vulnerable communities including Indigenous, Migrant and Refugee,

Remote and Rural, Elderly, Women, and Complex Care for
I/DD, Autism, Dementia, and Mental Health.

2. Raise financial funds to support the KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research Collaborating Center of Excellence infrastructure.
3. Serve as a member on TUFH's Advisory Board.
4. Collaborate with other Collaborating Centers of Excellence to improve upon TUFH's technical services and products and to position TUFH as a global network of networks ultimately increasing the capacity of local institutions and communities.
5. Publish, participate, represent, and advocate for Parties collective goals to build the Global Health field and inform policies and practices with the World Health Organization (WHO).

RENEWAL CLAUSE

1. The agreement will automatically renew after a period 15 months unless terminated by either party or if either party is not in compliance with agreed upon terms and conditions.

TERMINATION CLAUSE:

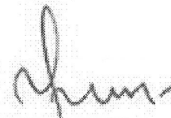
1. Either Party may terminate this Agreement without cause with thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Other Party.
2. In the event of the expiration or termination of this Agreement, for any reason, the Parties shall negotiate the tasks to be undertaken to transition the Collaborating Center of Excellence to a new institution, the Parties will work in good faith to achieve such transition and the level of support provided by Woods will be reduced accordingly.

By executing this Extension Agreement, the parties affirm all of the terms and conditions of the Agreement, unless otherwise modified by KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research the terms hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this collaboration agreement as of the date first above written.



Nicholas Torres
President/TUFH International
The Network: Towards Unity for Health



Prof. Dr. Nitin M. Gangane
Vice-Chancellor
KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research

